

including \$12,000 to Women Make Movies, a New York distributor that a Michigan congressman once likened to a "veritable taxpayer-funded peep show."

This latest grant is for "Girls Like Us," a documentary on the sexuality of girls growing up in the 1990s. It won the 1997 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury award for best documentary.

It is part of a package of four films. The others are "Jenny and Jenny," about two 17-year-olds in Israel; "Girls Still Dream," about women coming of age in Egypt; and "The Righteous Babes," about women in rock 'n roll.

The money will go to produce a study guide for the films and help market it to 100,000 U.S. secondary schools.

"It's a terrific organization. We're proud to be funding them, and it's a terrific project," NEA spokeswoman Cherie Simon said of Women Make Movies (WMM). "[The documentary] went through an extremely competitive process and was found to be meritorious."

The film, which follows four teen-agers from south Philadelphia "deals superficially with sex and its consequences," says a review in the Arizona Republic. "Sex, for the girls, is not about physical pleasure or desire, not about love, not about social pressures. It's just something teens do, they seem to say."

Although the grant is minuscule compared to much larger NEA awards to orchestras, operas and ballets around the country, it is symbolic of the arts agency's new confidence.

Its fortunes were at a low ebb in 1997, when Rep. Peter Hoekstra, Michigan Republican, blasted WMM for its themes on lesbians and children's sexuality. He was especially incensed about a \$31,500 grant for "Watermelon Woman," an explicit WMM film about black lesbians.

House Republicans voted to kill all funding for the NEA in the summer of 1997, but the agency's life was extended by the Senate. Since then, NEA has acquired a new chairman, William Ivey, and President Clinton recently proposed increasing its budget by 53 percent.

"Rather than raise the red flag, why don't they let it lay for a couple of years?" Mr. Hoekstra said yesterday in response to "Girls Like Us." "the NEA doesn't care about what Congress thinks."

He was more concerned, he said, about "inequities" in NEA funding.

"They are posturing themselves as wanting to build a better relationship with Congress, but [in 1998], 167 congressional districts received no grants," he said. "If you want to build some bridges and show you're at least listening to what's a sizeable group in Congress, at least start distributing the money more fairly."

The 600,000 people in his western Michigan district "didn't receive one dollar" from the NEA, but in 1998, "New York got 14 percent of the money distributed," he said, "Now, New York doesn't have 14 percent of the populations in America."

New York groups got large chunks of funding in the most recent grant cycle, including \$60,000 to the Dance Theater of Harlem, \$100,000 to the Metropolitan Opera, \$150,000 to the New York Philharmonic and \$200,000 to the New York City Ballet.

In Washington, the Humanities Council got a \$50,000 grant for a project involving writers, and the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co. got \$64,000 for a theater project with young people and adults in the Shaw neighborhood.

Other grants include \$45,000 to the Fairfax County public schools system for its plan to use its Arts in Elementary Schools program at Mosby Woods Elementary as a model for 134 other county elementary schools.

The Institute of Musical Traditions in Silver Spring received \$18,000 for an outreach program to low-income schools and for its programs for traditional folk artist.

Grants for \$100,000 went to opera companies in Houston and Los Angeles. The National Foundation for Jewish Culture in New York got \$100,000, as did the Nebraska Arts Council and the Atlantic Center for the Arts in New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM THE FED- ERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Con. Res. 82 calling for

the removal of U.S. troops from their positions in connection with the present operation against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

This has been a very troubled region for centuries. In recent years, the U.S. Department of State has reported that the civil war in Kosovo between the Serbian government and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has heightened. In recent weeks, while the NATO attacks on the Serbian police and troops in Serbia's Kosovo province have increased, the Serb forces have heightened their efforts to remove ethnic Albanians from Kosovo. Ironically, the President argued that airstrikes were needed in order to keep this very action from taking place. Unfortunately, the airstrikes only heightened these atrocities.

Unfortunately, there are no easy answers. It now seems apparent that President Clinton's decision to begin a bombing campaign was not the right decision and that is why I opposed the resolution supporting U.S. military action before the NATO bombing attacks began. Indeed, the Washington Post has reported that many military leaders doubted Mr. Clinton's bombing strategy would end the civil war in Kosovo. Unfortunately, they have been proved right.

As a Member of Congress I have the responsibility to ask the following questions, "Is the situation in Kosovo in our national interest?" If it is in our national interest I must ask myself, "Am I willing to say to my constituents and my neighbors that I believe the lives of their sons and daughters in the military should be placed in jeopardy by sending them into battle in Kosovo?" I say NO to both. We do not have a national interest in Kosovo and we should not risk the lives of our men and women in uniform.